

GLIMPSES INTO THE LIVES OF OUR AUTHORS

MARK TWAIN SAID

Thanksgiving Day: Let all give humble, hearty, and sincere thanks, now, but the turkeys. In the island of Figi they do not use turkeys; they use plumbers. It does not become you and me to sneer at Figi.

Adam was but human—this explains it all. He did not want the apple for the apple's sake, he wanted it only because it was forbidden. The mistake was in not forbidding the serpent; then he would have eaten the serpent.

Habit is habit, and not to be flung out of the window by any man, but coaxed down stairs a step at a time.

There are three infallible ways of pleasing an author, and the three form a rising scale of compliment: 1. To tell him you have read one of his books; 2. To tell him you have read all of his books; 3. To ask him to let you read the manuscript of his forthcoming book. No. 1 admits you to his admiration; No. 2 admits you to his admiration; No. 3 carries you clear into his heart.

When I reflect upon the number of disagreeable people who I know have gone to a better world, I am moved to lead a different life.

October! This is one of the peculiarly dangerous months to speculate in stocks in. The others are July, January, September, April, November, May, March, June, December, August and February.

MISSOURI MILITARISM

"Training," a book written by Lieut. Col. Joseph Frazier, retired, of 209 Thill avenue, has aroused much comment during the two years it has been before the public. Gathering data and notes which he had collected in the course of twenty-five years' observation of educational conditions throughout this country, Porto Rico, Cuba, the Philippines and the Orient, Colonel Frazier embodies them in this work in order to give the public. Gathering data and notes information and its accompanying ripe opinions.

The book has been criticised as dealing too much with military matters, and as leading one to believe that military training is the best educational means to a good citizenship, to which the Colonel has replied in an article entitled "A Kick," explaining that the reader had better go through the book again if he has read it but once, and he will find that quite the contrary is true. Colonel Frazier wrote the book under the pen name "J. F. Bruce," and signed this subsequent article in a like manner. So no one could be prejudiced by a military title in making such criticisms.

A survey of the work would seem to justify the criticism offered. It does contain very much of the military side of educational argument. There is no doubt of that. Comparisons between civil and military training continually occur, and in the divisions dealing with training for national defense, the author does make the best of his military knowledge. There is continually a thread of "military efficiency" running throughout, and it is constantly advocated by the author.

But, on the other hand, the book is not purely a military work written by none other than a military man. Mental, moral and physical training are taken up and discussed. Agricultural training is given much space, and the subject of the improvement of wretched conditions in rural districts is enlarged upon. True, there is doubtless the tone of the military writer running throughout, but it is just because of this that the book is well worth reading. A little more of such sort of efficiency and America would be better off.

LOUIS DODGE

Louis Dodge, president this year of the Missouri Writers' Guild, is known chiefly as a novelist, though he has done much dramatic criticism and editorial writing for newspapers. He was with St. Louis papers for sixteen years. He also contributes poems and articles to current magazines.

The novels that came from his pen last year were: "Tavi Tavi," "Everychild," and "Nancy; Her Life and Death." His first novel which appeared in 1916, was "Bonnie May."

It was the beginning of a program of at least one novel a year. "Children of the Desert," in 1917, "A Runaway Woman," in 1918, "The Sandman's Forest," in 1918, "Rosa," in 1919, and "Whispers" in 1920, followed.

Mrs. Edelman Writes Irish Song. Katherine Edelman, born in County Tipperary, Ireland, is thoroughly Americanized and Missouriized too. Yet a poem she has written that has been made into a song, is called "The Lane to Ballybree." It was put to music by Oley Sparks of New York and was recently sung for the Victor Co. by Madam Yumer and will be on the market soon. It has also been recorded by the Edison Co.

Mrs. Woodson's Mother Writes. No wonder Mary Blake Woodson writes things people like to read! Her mother published a book after she was 70 and now at 73 is regularly on the staff of the Kansas City Catholic Register, doing special work for them and semi-editorial.

Writer of Animal Stories



Courtney Ryley Cooper and one of the reasons he ran away from home.

Courtney Ryley Cooper ran away from home the first time to join the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show, when he was 5 years old, and regularly two or three times a year, the rest of the Cooper family, he says, spent most of its time dragging him home whenever a circus came to Kansas City.

When he was 15 years old he made the final break away and became a clown in a circus. And they paid him \$5 a week. After about five years of this he began to mix the circus business with that of the newspaper, and left the "white tops" to become a reporter on the Kansas City Star.

From the Star he went to the Chicago Tribune, then to the New York World, then to the Denver Post. He still felt the call of the circus, however, and became press agent of the Sells-Floto Circus. After that he was the personal representative of Col. William F. Cody, the real "Buffalo Bill." Finally he came back to the Sells-Floto circus as general manager.

In between times he worked as a trucker for a mercantile warehouse, a wrapper, a traveling glove salesman, a harvest worker, and a few other things, he says.

He began to write in 1912 and since then his stories of the saw dust ring have appeared in every large magazine in the United States. Having been in an arena with as many as six lions and tigers at one time, his animal stories have the right local color. He is the author of several books, among them "The Cross Cut," "The White Desert," "Memories of Buffalo Bill," "Dear Folks at Home," "The Eagle's Eye." A number of these have been written to moving pictures.

During the war Mr. Cooper was a lieutenant in the Marines, and was assigned special duties in France. He is fond of hunting and fishing, and he himself says, he is "nuts about jungle animals." At his home in Idaho Springs, Colo., he occasionally stages shows and wild west rodeos "just for the fun of it."

State's First Writer Was Henry Marie Breckenridge of St. Louis

"A Century of Missouri Literature," a thin volume by Alexander M. De Menil, contains a short biography of the most important writers of Missouri during the nineteenth century, beginning with that of Henry Marie Breckenridge, who is considered Missouri's first author.

He was born in Pittsburgh in 1786 and when seven years old was sent to a French school in the village of St. Genevieve, then in upper Louisiana. He studied to be a lawyer. Moving to St. Louis in 1810, he knew pioneer Missouri. "Recollections of Persons and Places in the West," is his principal work. Most of his books were published before Missouri was a state.

Edmund Flacery, the next Missouri writer of note, also studied to be a lawyer. He worked on a newspaper in St. Louis. His first book was "The Far West." It is a journal of his wanderings over the prairies of Illinois and Missouri. He wrote several plays that were popular.

Father DeSmet, a Catholic missionary, for fifty years was identified with the life and growth of St. Louis. He wrote mostly of travels, of Indians and his missionary work. He often served as an interpreter for the government, having learned the language of the Indians.

Sol Smith, "his own Solomon Franklin Smith," otherwise on state occasions, says Mr. De Menil, was a western actor and wrote pleasantly and interestingly about actors, and the drama, from sixty to a hundred years ago.

James Duncan Nourse painted pictures of western life among land squatters and on the steam boats. His books "Leavenworth" and "The Forrest Knight" were among his best. He had newspaper experience in St. Louis.

Louis Richard Cortambert has been called the greatest writer of French in the United States. His beliefs resemble those of Thoreau. He wrote as he believed and boasted that his pen was not for sale. Several of his books were published in Paris. One of them "Voyage Aux Pays des Osages" is written about the country just southwest of Boone County where the Osage Indians lived at that time.

Hugh A. Garland was a lawyer. His "Life of John Randolph, of Roanoke" is still sold by eastern publishers. Says Mr. De Menil, "The encyclopedia killed Garland off in 1850; nevertheless he managed to live until 1854."

Thomas H. Benton, one of the best known of Missourians, practiced law in St. Louis and wrote books on legal subjects.

Sallie Rochester Ford, is the first outstanding woman writer of the state. Her "Grace Truman" was extremely popular, and sold widely.

The Telfers, father, John Frederick Leonard, and son, Rudolph Leonard, were born in Germany. The father's translations in German contain books by Scott, Dickens, and Thackeray. The son did religious writing.

Theodore Case, a Kansas City doctor wrote "The Advance of Kansas City,"

JAY WILLIAM HUDSON

Orator, philosopher, teacher, author, poet—all that and more is Dr. Jay William Hudson, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Missouri and writer of one of this year's "best sellers," Abbe Pierre.

Doctor Hudson was a student at Hiram College in Ohio for about two years. Later he was graduated with the A. B. degree from the University of California. From Harvard he received his Ph. D. and came to the University of Missouri as Assistant Professor in Philosophy in 1908. His liberal academic education has been greatly broadened by his work outside the University and by travel. During 1914 and 1915 Doctor Hudson was on leave from the University and was connected with the Massachusetts Peace Society. From 1917 to 1918 he was in Europe with the Red Cross.

Not only the students and alumni but the townspeople of Columbia as well, hold Doctor Hudson in the highest esteem both as a writer and as a man. An orator of great force and charm, he is in constant demand as a speaker. Possessed of a highly dynamic, restless energy he dislikes lethargy in others. In discussing the drab, negative goodness—the goodness of sheer laziness—of a certain group of people, he is reported to have said, "I would rather go to the devil full of pep than to heaven as a dead one."

As a writer Doctor Hudson has only recently become known to a wide circle of readers. His first two books, "The College and New America," 1920, and "The Truths We Live By," 1921, were only fairly successful. With his latest book, Abbe Pierre, more of an idol than a novel, he has won the love of thousands of readers and has made or himself a place in the ranks of the foremost writers of the day. Although published only last April, Abbe Pierre is already in its sixth printing and is still in demand.

MISS DOBBS WRITES BOOKS

Methods of Teaching Child Handwriting Is Explained.

Two books, "Primary Handwork" and "Illustrated Handwork," have been written for the use of grade school teachers by Miss Ella Victoria Dobbs, assistant professor of manual arts in the University.

"Primary Handwork" was published in 1914. The text is intended for the use of grade teachers who have had little or no training in handwork processes, but who appreciate the necessity of making worthy use of the child's natural activity and desire to do.

The suggestions in the book include directions for the making of posters, booklets, playhouses, animals and toys, and village scenes.

The language is clear, direct and concise. Valuable advice to teachers on criticism, and standards of workmanship is stated in the same simple and readable manner. In explaining her subject the author has made use of many illustrations.

In the preface to her first book, Miss Dobbs thanks the Columbia schools for their "most efficient service in testing these problems in their classrooms."

"Illustrative Handwork" is written for teachers in the higher grades. It was published in 1917.

THE WRITERS' GUILD

The purpose of the Missouri Writers' Guild, as stated by the Guild, "is to bring into closer relationship the writers of the state for mutual inspiration, information and amusement; and from time to time to entertain distinguished writers and editors from other states. The Guild is purely social and fraternal; and its officers cannot undertake to read manuscripts from either its members or others."

Any Missourian who has had a book published on a royalty basis; or has sold three articles, stories or poems, or one serial to a magazine of national circulation; or has written a play that has been produced by a regular theatrical company; or has sold three photo-dramas for which the author has received credit on the screen, is eligible to active membership.

The Guild holds two meetings every year, one of which is at Columbia during Journalism Week. The other is one of two weeks' outing in some picturesque spot in Missouri. To these annual camps distinguished writers from outside the state will be invited as guests.

The present officers of the Guild are Louis Dodge, president; Mary Black Woodson, vice-president; Catha Wells, secretary and treasurer.

On the executive committee are Hugh F. Grinstead, Walter Williams, Ruby W. Freudenberger, Ella I. Heininger, Ray C. Hurlburt, and Jas. W. Earp. The honorary members of the Guild are Winston Churchill, George Creel, Homer Croy, Leigh Mitchell Hodges, Rupert Hughes, Fannie Hurst, Edna Kenton, Sara Teasdale, Augustus Thomas, Maude Radford Warren and William H. Hamby.

Sara Teasdale Born in St. Louis. Sara Teasdale, one of America's best known modern poets was born in St. Louis. Since her first book of poetry, "Sonnets to the Duse and Other Poems" was published in 1907, she has had great popularity. She is a member of the Poetry Society of America and an honorary member of the Missouri Writers' Guild.

It Takes a Good Loser. Elizabeth Palmer Milbank says "writing is a good game if only you are a good loser."

"YELLOW KID" GAVE CHRISTOPHER B. BOOTH HIS START IN WRITING

In Chicago there was a confidence man with the police nickname of "The Yellow Kid."

"The scheme which eventually sent him to prison was so astoundingly clever that I made a fiction story out of it and sent it to The Detective Story Magazine," says Christopher Belward Booth, formerly of Centralia. "And thus was born my fiction character, Mr. Amos Clackworthy," he continues.

"There have been some 200 Clackworthy stories and he is soon to make his appearance in book form."

Mr. Booth once worked for the Kansas City Journal. He says his first assignment was covered for the rival paper, The Times, by Courtney Ryley Cooper. He later worked with Louis Dodge on the old St. Louis Republic.

"I am not a highbrow," Mr. Booth declares, "and have no yearning to be, I am a story-teller; I try to entertain. I have no weighty messages, no visionary suggestions for the uplift of mankind, I try to write the sort of yarn that will make those seeking entertainment and mental relaxation lay down the magazine with 'Gosh, but that was a bully story!'"

He says it isn't as easy to break into the Table of Contents as it may sound, and that the person who throws down a magazine in disgust after reading a story and says "I can write better stuff than that" (and who hasn't done that) ought to try it.

The Lyttel Boy.

Sometime there ben a lyttel boy
That wolde not renne and play,
And helpeles like that lytle tyke
Ben allwais in the way.
"Gee, make you merrie with the rest!"
His weary mother cried:
But with a frown he catcht her gown
And hong untill her side.

That boy did love his moder well,
Which spake him faire, I weene;
He loved to stand and hold her hand
And ken her with his een;
His cosen bleated in the croft,
His toys unheeded lay—
He wolde not goe, but, tarrying soe,
Ben allwais in the way.

Godde loveth children and doth gird
His throne with soche as these,
And he doth smile in plausance while
They cluster at His knees;
And sometime, when He looked on earth
And watched the bairns at play,
He kenned with joy a lyttel boy
Ben allwais in the way.

And then a moder felt her heart
How that it ben to-torne—
She kissed eche day till she ben gray
The shoon he used to worne;
No hairn let hold untill her gown
Nor played upon the floor—
Godde's was the joy; a lyttel boy
Ben in the way no more.

—Eugene Field.

CLUB TELLS EVERYBODY ABOUT STATE WRITERS

Will Indiana Tamely Submit to Having Her Laurels Snatched From Her?

A story in the New York Sun says: "The literary echos of this nation are now startled by the state of Missouri piping up in no uncertain voice her claim with a list of forty-four sons and daughters in the writing trade—all of them made in Missouri and almost all of them born there. Will Indiana tamely submit to having her laurels thus snatched from her? Can she or can she not compile a list of more than forty-four Indiana authors arrived at or on the way. And what has California got to say? Of course one does not consider such hoary old grandmothers as Massachusetts and New York which have been mothering authors for so many centuries they've long since forgotten the little thrill of local pride that is making Missouri whoop over her writing sons and daughters. But Illinois—will literary circles in Chicago and Peoria let the occasion pass without a census to prove that fair Illinois has bred more authors than Missouri has corn-cob pipes?"

The list of Missouri authors given was compiled by the Fortnightly Club of Liberty, Mo. The following classifications were made:

"The Great: Winston Churchill and Augustus Thomas.

"The Nationally Famous: Rupert Hughes, Fannie Hurst, Sara Teasdale, Harold Bell Wright, Zoe Akins, George Creel and Mary C. Dillon.

"The Arrived: William Hamby, Louis Dodge, Homer Croy, J. Breckenridge Ellis, Courtney Ryley Cooper, Temple Bailey, Shirley Selfert, Hugh F. Grinstead, Mrs. John Curran, Edna Kenton and Maude Radford Warren.

"The Recognized: Sam Hellman, Father Tierney, Elinor Maxwell, Bagdasar K. Baghdigian and others."

He's Written for Most All of Them. "I have written good, bad and indifferent stuff," says Tom Morgan. "For years I wrote pretty nearly all kinds of stuff but hymns and editorials, working at different periods for Punch, Judge, Harper's the Youth's Companion and so on and on, a list as long as your arm."

State Boasts Many Nationally Known Writers

Twenty-seven authors of national fame live in Missouri. Many others internationally known claim Missouri as their home.

In the state's galaxy of first-star magnitude, are Augustus Thomas, foremost playwright, Sara Teasdale, first of modern lyrists and Fannie Hurst, best of short story writers. Furthermore, the highest literary seat of honor in this country—that of president of the Authors' League of America has been occupied by Winston Churchill, a Missourian, and foremost novelist of his day.

Rupert Hughes, whose income from literary work is among the largest of American authors, was born at Lancaster, Mo. Plots and inspiration for some of his most successful stories come from Missouri.

Of the twenty-seven authors living in the state, seven are women, and thirteen of the entire number live in St. Louis. An investigation of "Who's Who" shows that the majority of these writers have not lived sedentary, one-sided lives, but have had varied careers, being active in fields of business, politics, newspaper work and travel.

Louis Houck of Cape Girardeau, who has contributed many state historical works, has built 500 miles of railroad in Southeastern Missouri.

Lee Meriwether, an author who practices law in St. Louis, was sent during the war with special commissions to the French and Italian fronts. He had the organization in France of the central control of passports during the war, and once took a tramp trip from Gibraltar to the Bosphorus. At one time he received the Democratic nomination for mayor of St. Louis.

Louis Dodge, of St. Louis, former president of the Missouri Writers' Guild, began as a newspaper reporter. He is writing a new novel at present.

Richard D. Kathrens of St. Joseph was in newspaper work for many years. He has also operated oil fields in Wyoming, made surveys of the textile industry in

Massachusetts, and investigated fraudulent rubber companies in Central America.

Sidney C. Tapp, lawyer and historical and religious writer of Kansas City, was once the Liberal Party nominee for president.

Denton J. Snider of St. Louis, besides being a lecturer and writer of verse, produces books on architecture, fine arts, philosophy, psychology and history.

William Webb Wheeler, who has written books of travel, began his career in a wholesale drygoods house in St. Joseph and continued with its successors until he is now president of the company.

Alexander N. De Menil, of St. Louis, has been a lawyer, author, publisher, literary editor and contributor of literary criticism to St. Louis papers. He was also an executive officer of the commission for Relief in Belgium and president of the Belgium Relief fund for Missouri.

Walter B. Stevens, author, journalist and most popular historical writer in Missouri, has held several important public positions, including the secretaryship of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis and that of the American Peace Congress in 1913. He is president of the State Historical Society and belongs to various orders of Italy, China, Belgium, Japan, France and Germany.

Charles F. Haanel, of St. Louis, a member of the Authors' League of America, was once president of a commercial company for the growing and refining of sugar in South Mexico and of an improvement company for growing grapes in Southern California.

J. Breckenridge Ellis, of Plattsburg, is a writer in a wheel chair whose success came after thirteen years of literary endeavor. In 1912 his "Fran" was the best seller in America. He has been president of the Missouri Writers' Guild, and president of Plattsburg College and the Central Christian Church, Albany.

Among his other gifts Mr. Ellis is a composer of music. He has made tours

of Europe and Mexico in his wheel chair and has written of his travels.

The women authors as well as the men, have shown versatility. Among them is Florence Hayward a St. Louis writer who has contributed extensively to American and English magazines. In 1902, he was the only woman appointed on the special commission of the St. Louis Exposition to Europe where she obtained from King Edward the loan of Queen Victoria's presents for the exposition. She obtained the first Vatican exhibit ever sent to any exposition and was elected a member of the Royal Arts Society of London in recognition of services rendered. She is also the originator of the Artist's Guild of St. Louis.

Mary Blake Woodson of Kansas City, aside from contributing fiction to magazines, has been state editor of the Kansas City Star and a war correspondent.

Louise Platt Hauck of St. Joseph, who has specialized in treating of quaint features of Missouri history, legend and romance, wrote and sold more than 200 short stories in eighteen months.

Another St. Joseph author is Mary Alicia Owen, a Vassar graduate who has made a special study of gypsy life and Indian folk-lore and magic. She has been admitted to tribal membership with the Indians, has joined their secret societies and has written much of their beliefs and customs. Besides being president of the Missouri Folk-lore Society, she is also a member of American and foreign societies of folk-lore.

Among Missouri authors whose fame has led them to other fields is William H. Hamby, a native of Chillicothe who taught school, ran a newspaper, and mixed in politics in the Ozarks before he turned his attention to literary work. Homer Croy, of Maryville, first wanted to be a detective. Later he became an editorial writer and finally a humorist.

Calvin Johnston, who has made a marked success as a magazine writer in New York City, lived formerly in Kansas City where he was clerk in a railroad office.

Homer Croy



Mr. Croy says himself that his picture is "right up to the minute and not fifteen years old as are so many authors' pictures. Though Happers like a book Mr. Croy has just written, they didn't like his name for it; however, the book will come out soon. "The story is laid in Missouri," he says. "It never gets more than a mile from the water tower . . . Mostly my books have been about boys, but in this the characters are grown, and I may say that the University figures in the story."

J. BRECKENRIDGE ELLIS

To lose the use of both legs in infancy from spinal meningitis, and from early childhood to be able to use his eyes only four hours a day, are the handicaps that J. Breckenridge Ellis, famous Missourian author, has had to overcome. At the present time Mr. Ellis makes his home at Plattsburg.

At the age of 13 this native Missourian was the editor, author, proprietor and business manager of what he called the "Storied Daily," the "Storied Weekly" and the "Storied Monthly," a group of magazines written in small columns by a blunt lead pencil. All the stories had startling climaxes. Later on Ellis was associate editor of the "Young Author," published at Waco, Tex., and of the "Sunny Hour" of New York.

St. Louis was the home of J. Breckenridge Ellis during his first eight years, his father being a criminal lawyer there. He was born Feb. 11, 1870 near Hannibal, Mo. Graduating at the age of 16, he has spent many days in class rooms of colleges, being professor of English.

Mr. Ellis cannot remember when he first began to write but it was a long time before any of his works were accepted. Because of the failure of his sight and his crippled condition, he decided when young that the only work he could possibly accomplish was with the pen. He has had countless failures, different periods for Punch, Judge, Harper's the Youth's Companion and so on and on, a list as long as your arm."

His Jokes Sold First.

Herbert J. Maughman first broke into print with jokes in the Ladies' Home Journal and Life at the age of 16. He now sells stories to many popular magazines. He was formerly a student in the University and was a member of the Dana Press Club.

FANNIE HURST

Fannie Hurst, the meteoric, has the same flashing place in fiction that Amy Lowell commands in verse. Both stand for something that veers off so sharply from literary preconceptions that the cautious public wavers between accepting them as masters of the new or denouncing them as vendors of the merely sensational.

Yet of Fannie Hurst it may be said that no matter how great are her deficiencies "she dips her pen in her heart to write." It is this all-encompassing humanism of hers—this ability to feel as deeply for the 550-pound circus woman as for the willed basement sales-girl—that holds the reader in spite of himself.

Fannie Hurst is a St. Louis product, as is seen in some of her earliest stories (written of St. Louis while she lived in boarding houses in New York). She was born in Ohio in 1889, though her family returned to St. Louis immediately after her birth. Her education was cut from the public school quaries there and from Washington University, where she was graduated at 19 "about as half-baked as the average" to use her own idiom. She left at once for New York, there to write day and night from sheer loneliness and to pound constantly at the doors of editorial sanctums. For more years than the average writer dare contemplate, she tried to break through into acceptance, only to have her stories refused by almost every popular magazine in the country. Finally Robert Davis of Munsey's acclaimed her a really great writer, and after that—"the deluge."

Her materials she finds in the raw bulk of life itself; she has worked in factories and in shops and has traveled in steerages for the prices of life she so vividly portrays. It is the short story she dominates, her kind of writing is too intense to sustain the continued effort of a novel. Her only novel, "Star-Dust," seems to have overreached itself. She is most popular known for her "Humoresque," first written as a story, then knitted into a scenario, and finally fashioned into a play. This, however, is not her best work: "Even as You and I," the story of a circus tiny, has qualities only touched upon in "Humoresque."

Her collections of short stories are varied: "Gaslight Sonatas," "Just Around the Corner," "Humoresque," "The Vertical City." Each story is marked by the same feelingly human quality, the tingling style and the remarkable technique of her own making. Kathleen Norris has called her "the genius of the American short story." In spite of hammer and tongs, Fannie Hurst has gone marching on with her own convictions of creativeness, which as she terms them are "little soul tapers lighting a dark way."

If She Had Her "Ruthers."

"I would rather be Booth Tarkington than any other person who ever lived," says Louise Platt Hauck, "and next to him, Samuel Hopkins Adams. I would rather be the author of a really worthwhile book than to own all the oil wells in the state of Texas; or of a perfect story than to possess the Collingwood diamond. Of all the creative arts, writing seems to me the most permanent and lasting."

She Writes of Child Training. Velma West Sykes is particularly interested in writing of child welfare.